

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 ~~1. A method for enhancing the resolution of black image regions~~
2 rendered at a resolution of color image regions, the black image regions and color
3 image regions being represented by pixels, the black image regions and color image
4 regions having a first resolution, the first resolution being lower than a maximum
5 black printing resolution of a printer, the method comprising:
6 generating black pixels and color pixels at said first resolution;
7 for each original pixel of the black image region having the first resolution,
8 multiplying said pixel in two dimensions to obtain a first array of
9 pixels, so as to represent the original pixel by a plurality of target
10 pixels in the first array;
11 selecting a plurality of neighboring pixels, said target pixels and neighboring
12 pixels constituting a pixel window;
13 applying the pixels in the pixel window to a logic circuit having a plurality of
14 logical conditions;
15 determining enhanced resolution pixels for the target pixels based on whether
16 said pixel window meets a logical condition; and
17 printing said enhanced resolution pixels at a second resolution as well as said
18 color pixels at said first resolution.

1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, the method further comprising:
2 forming a processed pixel image by repeating the selecting through the
3 determining steps until all of the original pixels have been processed.

1 3. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first resolution is 300
2 dots per inch (dpi) and the second resolution is 600 dpi.
3

1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising empirically
2 determining the logical conditions.

1 ~~5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of printing further~~
2 comprises printing black pixels rendered at the second resolution.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the pixel window has rows
2 represented by bits equal to or less than a word size.

1 7. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the pixels in the pixel
2 window form a 13x13 pixel matrix.

1 8. An apparatus for enhancing the resolution of black image regions
2 rendered at a resolution of color image regions, the black image regions and color
3 image regions being represented by pixels, the black image regions and color image
4 regions having a first resolution, the first resolution being lower than a maximum
5 black printing resolution of a printer, the apparatus comprising:
6 an upscaling circuit for multiplying black pixels to form a first array of black
7 pixels, said first array including a group of target pixels;
8 a logic circuit for receiving said target pixels and neighboring pixels, forming
9 a window of pixels, said logic circuit applying logical conditions to
10 said window of pixels and identifying enhanced resolution pixels for
11 said group of target pixels; and
12 at least one printhead for printing said enhanced resolution pixels at a second
13 resolution and color pixels at said first resolution.

1 9. The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the logic circuit
2 comprises a logic array.

1 10. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the first resolution is
2 300 dots per inch (dpi) and the second resolution is 600 dpi.

1 11. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the logical conditions are
2 empirically derived.

1 12. A method for enhancing black image regions of a pixel field that are
2 rendered at the same first resolution of color image regions, the method comprising:
3 separating black pixels from color pixels to form a black pixel field;
4 multiplying the number of pixels in the black pixel field to form a first pixel
5 array;
6 forming a sub-array of the first pixel array, the sub-array including a target
7 group of pixels;
8 applying the sub-array to a logic circuit identifying a plurality of logical
9 conditions;
10 based on whether the sub-array meets a logical condition, modifying said
11 target group of pixels to reduce jagged edges of said black image
12 regions; and
13 printing the modified target group of pixels at an increased resolution and
14 printing color pixels at said first resolution.

1 13. The method as recited in claim 12 wherein said multiplying is
2 performed by upscaling.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the initial resolution of the black
2 pixel field is 300 dots per inch (dpi), and the resolution of the modified target pixels
3 is 600 dpi.